



This is an official DHEC Health Update

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2014-2015 South Carolina Influenza Surveillance

This update is to provide healthcare professionals with the latest information regarding:

- SC influenza surveillance and reporting systems
- State-mandated influenza surveillance
- Voluntary influenza surveillance
- State laboratory influenza testing and specimen submission
- Resource Links
- Attachments: Regional health department contact information, positive rapid influenza test reporting worksheet, and influenza hospitalization reporting worksheet

SC Influenza Surveillance and Reporting Systems

South Carolina influenza surveillance consists of both mandatory and voluntary reporting systems for year-round influenza surveillance. These networks provide information on influenza virus strain and subtype and influenza disease burden.

Combined, these systems assist in:

- Determining when and where influenza activity is occurring in the state
- Determining what influenza viruses are circulating
- Detecting changes in influenza viruses
- Tracking influenza-related illness
- Understanding influenza morbidity and mortality in SC

Data from these systems are reported on DHEC's influenza surveillance website:
<http://www.scdhec.gov/Health/DiseasesandConditions/InfectiousDiseases/Flu/FluData/>

State-mandated Influenza Surveillance Components

SC State Law # 44-29-10 and Regulation # 61-20 requires reporting of diseases and conditions to local and state health departments. The following influenza-related conditions are reportable:

- Influenza A, novel or avian (not seasonal H1 or H3)
Human infections with novel or avian influenza virus A (other than seasonal H1, H3, or 2009 H1N1) should be reported immediately to the local health department. This includes variant strains such as influenza A H1N1v, A H1N2v, and A H3N2v.

- Laboratory confirmed reports (culture, RT-PCR, DFA, IFA)
Laboratory reports of influenza culture, RT-PCR, DFA, and IFA results should be reported to DHEC within 3 days either electronically via the Carolina's Health Electronic Surveillance System (CHESS) or using the DHEC 1129 card.
- Laboratory confirmed influenza-associated hospitalizations
The total number of laboratory confirmed influenza hospitalizations should be reported to the regional health department by age group (0-4, 5-18, 19-24, 25-49, 50-64, 65+) by **noon** each **Monday** for the preceding week. Laboratory confirmation includes culture, RT-PCR, DFA, IFA, or rapid test. For weekly reporting please see the attached laboratory confirmed influenza hospitalizations reporting worksheet.
- Laboratory confirmed influenza-associated deaths
All influenza deaths (pediatric and adult) are reportable within 24 hours by phone to the regional health department. Laboratory confirmation includes culture, RT-PCR, DFA, IFA, rapid test or autopsy results consistent with influenza. Upon notification of a death, the Regional Epidemiology Program Manager will follow up to obtain additional information needed for the case report form.
- Positive Rapid Antigen Tests
The total number of positive rapid antigen tests by type (A, B, A and B, or unknown) should be reported to the regional health department by **noon** each **Monday** for the preceding week. For weekly reporting please see the attached positive rapid influenza test results summary worksheet.

Voluntary Influenza surveillance

Providers have the option of participating in one or both of South Carolina's two voluntary influenza monitoring networks. These networks include submission of specimens for viral isolation (DHEC Viral Isolate Network) and monitoring and reporting of influenza-like Illness (ILINet).

- DHEC Viral Isolate Network
The DHEC Bureau of Laboratories provides culture media, packaging, processing and shipping labels free of charge to participating providers. Enrolled providers are requested to submit specimens for testing throughout the flu season. These samples will be tested at the Bureau of Laboratories and results will be reported to CDC.

If a provider would like to participate in the Viral Isolate Network at the Bureau of Laboratories, please contact Christy Jeffcoat-Greenwood, Virology & Rabies laboratory at (803) 896-0819 or jeffcoca@dhec.sc.gov to learn more and receive testing supplies.

- U.S. Outpatient Influenza-like Illness Surveillance Network (ILINet)
ILINet is a national surveillance system in which a network of providers submit the number of patients seen with influenza-like symptoms and the total number of patients seen each week. ILI is defined as fever (temperature of $\geq 100^{\circ}\text{F}$) plus a cough and/or a sore throat in the absence of another known cause.

Providers who are interested in participating in ILINet should contact the DHEC influenza surveillance coordinator at springcb@dhec.sc.gov.

State Laboratory Testing and Specimen Submission

Beginning in 2014-15, the SC DHEC Bureau of Laboratories (BOL) will begin offering **Influenza RT-PCR** on samples submitted for influenza surveillance. Negative specimens will also be tested for other respiratory pathogens by viral culture testing. Specimen submission should focus on the following groups:

- Patients with ILI seen at facilities participating in the Viral Culture Surveillance Network
- Medically attended ILI and acute respiratory illness (ARI) in children under 18 years of age,
- Unusual or severe presentations of ILI,
- Vaccine failure,
- Patients admitted to hospital intensive care units with severe influenza-like illness (ILI) and no other confirmed diagnosis (e.g. RSV, Adenovirus),
- ILI outbreaks, particularly among children in child-care and school settings,
- Fatalities associated with ILI.

Testing may also be performed at the BOL when public health staff in the Division of Acute Disease Epidemiology (DADE) or the Regional Public Health Epidemiologic Response staff determine that such testing is necessary (e.g., under the auspices of an outbreak investigation).

The current specimen types acceptable for testing by our SC DHEC Bureau of Laboratories are:

- Upper respiratory: nasopharyngeal swab (NPS) or throat swab
- Lower respiratory: bronchoalveolar lavage tracheal aspirates, bronchial washes

A nasopharyngeal swab remains the specimen of choice for influenza testing. Lower respiratory specimens may be appropriate for critically ill patients who are highly suspected of having influenza. These patients may clear virus from their upper respiratory tract, while lower respiratory specimens remain positive.

Specimen Submission

If testing is indicated, collect a specimen as soon as possible after symptom onset and record the date of onset on the test request form. Ideally, specimens should be submitted within 3 days on collection. All specimens should be submitted in viral transport media. Please use polyester swabs when collecting nasopharyngeal or throat specimens.

- Specimens submitted for testing must be shipped cold.
- Specimens should be submitted along with the SC DHEC BOL Laboratory Request Form (D-1335, multi-part form, available from the BOL).

Resources for Additional Information

- DHEC Influenza Monitoring Website:
<http://www.scdhec.gov/Health/DiseasesandConditions/InfectiousDiseases/Flu/FluData/>
- South Carolina 2014 List of Reportable Conditions
<http://www.scdhec.gov/Health/FHPF/ReportDiseasesAdverseEvents/ReportableConditionsInSC/>
- CDC Influenza surveillance website:
<http://www.cdc.gov/flu/weekly/fluactivity.htm>

DHEC contact information for reportable diseases and reporting requirements

Reporting of influenza is consistent with South Carolina Law requiring the reporting of diseases and conditions to your state or local public health department. (State Law # 44-29-10 and Regulation # 61-20) as per the DHEC 2014 List of Reportable Conditions available at:

<http://www.scdhec.gov/Health/FHPF/ReportDiseasesAdverseEvents/ReportableConditionsInSC/>. Federal HIPAA legislation allows disclosure of protected health information, without consent of the individual, to public health authorities to collect and receive such information for the purpose of preventing or controlling disease. (HIPAA 45 CFR §164.512)

Regional Public Health Offices – 2014

Mail or call reports to the Epidemiology Office in each Public Health Region.

LOW COUNTRY PUBLIC HEALTH REGION

Berkeley, Charleston, Dorchester

4050 Bridge View Drive, Suite 600
N. Charleston, SC 29405
Phone: (843) 953-0043
Fax: (843) 953-0051
Nights / Weekends: (843) 441-1091

Beaufort, Colleton, Hampton, Jasper

219 S. Lemacks Street
Walterboro, SC 29488
Phone: (843) 549-1516
Fax: (843) 549-6845
Nights / Weekends: (843) 441-1091

Allendale, Bamberg, Calhoun, Orangeburg

932 Holly Street
Holly Hill, SC 29059
Phone: (803) 300-2270
Fax: (843) 549-6845
Nights / Weekends: (843) 441-1091

MIDLANDS PUBLIC HEALTH REGION

Kershaw, Lexington, Newberry, Richland

2000 Hampton Street
Columbia, SC 29204
Phone: (803) 576-2749
Fax: (803) 576-2993
Nights / Weekends: (888) 801-1046

Chester, Fairfield, Lancaster, York

PO Box 817
1833 Pageland Highway
Lancaster, SC 29720
Phone: (803) 286-9948
Fax: (803) 286-5418
Nights / Weekends: (888) 801-1046

Aiken, Barnwell, Edgefield, Saluda

222 Beaufort Street, NE
Aiken, SC 29801
Phone: (803) 642-1618
Fax: (803) 643-8386
Nights / Weekends: (888) 801-1046

PEE DEE PUBLIC HEALTH REGION

Chesterfield, Darlington, Dillon, Florence, Marlboro, Marion

145 E. Cheves Street
Florence, SC 29506
Phone: (843) 661-4830
Fax: (843) 661-4859
Nights / Weekends: (843) 915-8845

Clarendon, Lee, Sumter

PO Box 1628
105 North Magnolia Street
Sumter, SC 29150
Phone: (803) 773-5511
Fax: (803) 775-9941
Nights/Weekends: (843) 915-8845

Georgetown, Horry, Williamsburg

1931 Industrial Park Road
Conway, SC 29526-5482
Phone: (843) 915-8804
Fax: (843) 915-6502
Nights/Weekends: (843) 915-8845

UPSTATE PUBLIC HEALTH REGION

Anderson, Oconee

220 McGee Road
Anderson, SC 29625
Phone: (864) 260-5801
Fax: (864) 260-5623
Nights / Weekends: (866) 298-4442

Abbeville, Greenwood, Laurens, McCormick

1736 S. Main Street
Greenwood, SC 29646
Phone: (864) 227-5947
Fax: (864) 953-6313
Nights / Weekends: (866) 298-4442

Cherokee, Greenville, Pickens

PO Box 2507
200 University Ridge
Greenville, SC 29602-2507
Phone: (864) 372-3133
Fax: (864) 282-4373
Nights / Weekends: (866) 298-4442

UPSTATE PUBLIC HEALTH REGION

(continued)

Spartanburg, Union

PO Box 2507
200 University Ridge
Greenville, SC 29602-2507
Phone: (864) 372-3133
Fax: (864) 282-4373
Nights / Weekends: (866) 298-4442

DHEC Bureau of Disease Control Division of Acute Disease Epidemiology

1751 Calhoun Street
Box 101106
Columbia, SC 29211
Phone: (803) 898-0861
Fax: (803) 898-0897
Nights / Weekends: 1-888-847-0902



www.scdhec.gov

Categories of Health Alert messages:

Health Alert **Health Advisory** **Health Update**

Conveys the highest level of importance; warrants immediate action or attention.
Provides important information for a specific incident or situation; may not require immediate action.
Provides updated information regarding an incident or situation; unlikely to require immediate action.



Positive Rapid Influenza Test Results Reporting Worksheet

Reporting week: ____/____/____ - ____/____/____ (Sunday – Saturday)

Reporting Facility/Practice: _____

County: _____

Total Positive Rapid Tests by Type				
	A	B	A or B	Unknown
Sunday				
Monday				
Tuesday				
Wednesday				
Thursday				
Friday				
Saturday				
Total positive				

- Only positive rapid antigen detection tests should be reported using this worksheet. Positive viral cultures, “rapid” viral cultures, PCRs, DFAs, and IFAs should be reported electronically or using the DHEC 1129 form.
- Positive rapid antigen detection tests should be reported each week for the preceding week. Fax this worksheet by NOON on MONDAY to the regional health department. Contact numbers for regional health departments are available at:
<http://www.scdhec.gov/Health/FHPF/ReportDiseasesAdverseEvents/ReportableConditionsInSC/>
- Contact the regional health department if you wish to submit this worksheet via email.
- Influenza is reportable year-round.



Laboratory Confirmed Influenza Hospitalizations Reporting Worksheet (For Hospital Use)

Reporting hospital: _____

County: _____

Date of report: ____/____/____

Reporting week: ____/____/____ - ____/____/____ (Sunday-Saturday)

Contact name: _____

Contact telephone: _____

Age group	Total Weekly Hospitalizations
0-4	
5-17	
18-49	
50-64	
65+	
Unknown	
Total	

- Laboratory confirmation includes RT-PCR, viral culture, DFA, IFA, and rapid tests.
- Fax this worksheet to the regional health department by NOON on MONDAY for the preceding week. Regional health department contact numbers are available at:
<http://www.scdhec.gov/Health/FHPF/ReportDiseasesAdverseEvents/ReportableConditionsInSC/>
- Report zeros if there were no influenza hospitalizations.
- Contact the regional health department to report an influenza associated death.